

# The Friends of the Medical School

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*The Friends of the John A. Burns School of Medicine, as an organization, is an extension of a basic need. Mary Cutting has compiled a history of the organization in which she was an instrumental force. Some of the highlights are included below.*

When Dr Windsor Cutting needed medical books for the first medical school classes, he looked to local bookstores and found them unwilling to carry a selection sufficient for student needs. He volunteered his wife Mary to solve the problem. She met the challenge and in 1969 established what would become the Medical School Shop, under the auspices of the Leahi Hospital Auxiliary, which served the Diamond Head facility where the 2-year medical school program was housed.

Mary quickly recruited other volunteers to work in the shop, order books and pay bills. These volunteers included Phyllis Hathaway, who became the full-time volunteer manager in 1976. Phyllis continued in that role until the spring of 1990 when, following her physician husband's death, she resigned.

"The Friends" was born in 1976, when the school became a 4-year program and moved into the current location on the Manoa campus. Shop operations continued at the new site. Income from book sales was supplemented by gifts to the school. A financial aid program was started; an Emergency Loan fund was established; funds were appropriated as seed-money for the television program "Body Talk." Funds were provided to students and faculty who needed resources to conduct seminars, and books were donated to allied library services.

Many of these programs have continued along with the underwriting of expenses for the annual Convocation and for help to the first year students' Parents' night.

Recently, funds were used to pay patient "simulators" used

during the first year of learning under the new Problem-Based Learning Program. In addition, 2 big-budget items were purchased: A video disk system for the Health Instructional Resources Unit and several Medline search computer systems, 2 of which are housed at the Hawaii Medical Library and available to the medical community.

All of this has been made possible through the combined help of Mary Cutting, Joy Ashton, Phyllis Hathaway and a corps of 40 faculty wives. The parents of the medical students and their friends, retired physicians and the medical students themselves, before and after graduating, have given it generous support during the 21 years the Medical School Shop has been in operation under The Friends. We thank each and every volunteer whose legacy extends beyond the service provided students, faculty and the community.

Now, the University Bookstore has taken over the operation of the Shop and the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Medical School is planning to husband carefully the monies received from the "buy-out," so that the school's request for funds for projects can be met for many years to come.

The Board is also moving to expand its activities beyond the campus and is working with individuals and groups in the community to put on the first of projected annual fitness fairs aimed at 5- to 12-year-olds.

On September 15, 1991, medical students and faculty will join with The Friends to show youngsters the proper way to exercise for their age range. Entertainment, food and sales will round out the activities to be held at Thomas Square. We are calling on willing hands to make this not only a success in terms of what the youths gain, but also in the hopes that this event will spread the word about the good work the school does in the community.

Doctors and their families, parents of medical students and their friends are encouraged to become part of this project. Revenue gained will be placed in the Terence A. Rogers Student Support Fund, which was established in honor of former JABSOM Dean Rogers and has as its aim to recruit and retain students who are from ethnic groups underrepresented in medicine.

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